

RETROFITWORKS NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Key Facts

Welcome to the...

October edition of the Retrofitworks newsletter! We're excited to kick off with our very own message in honor of #WorldMentalHealthDay. Next, a big warm welcome to our two new team members at Your Home Better. Then we'll dive into our usual updates, including news from our membership manager, event highlights, and updates on our Haringey event and government initiatives.



A company's success begins with having a content team who feel acknowledge, supported, appreciated and valued, which creates the harmonious and positive environment. If we can make one meaningful change today, let's start by prioritising the happiness and well- being of our staff.



RETROFITWORKS SHARES INSPIRING MESSAGES FOR WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY.

In today's world, finding genuine support can be quite challenging. Many people go about their daily lives wearing a smile, giving the impression that everything is fine, while inside, they may feel incredibly lonely and fragile, yearning for a connection that makes them feel truly human. Supporting one another begins with self-reflection; as Michael Jackson famously sang about The WOMAN in the mirror, we must ask ourselves: Are we being kind? Are we truly listening? Are we aware of those around us? Are we making a positive impact each day to ensure we are being the best version of ourself and maybe the one who brings a smile to someone who is deeply hurting?

We spend a significant amount of our lives around 40 hours a week at work and interacting with colleagues. Therefore, I firmly believe that support should be encourage within the workplace. If your company experiences high staff turnover, have you ever paused to consider why that might be? Don't you want to improve and initiate change?



MEET DAVE BAILEY

THE NEW INSTALLATION MANAGER AT YOUR HOME BETTER

“Hi, I am the new Installations Manager at YHB. I want to make sure our installations run smoothly, and the customer has a positive experience that they will share. I’ve got experience of solar PV that will be useful to share with the wider organisation and I’m enjoying deepening my knowledge of the other retrofit measures. “

Why am I here? In some of my previous roles, I often felt disconnected from the broader mission of the organisations I worked for. This prompted me to - alongside some of my friends - set up a solar PV installation company, Trust Renewables, which is a social enterprise. We installed solar PV on residential properties across Greater Manchester and managed to help those affected by fuel poverty as part of the Green Homes Grant LAD Scheme. We joined forces with M&E contractors, Thomas Halliwell Ltd, which gave us the opportunity to carry out larger-scale, commercial installations. We'd been installing solar PV measures for the Your Home Better scheme in Manchester, so I'd already worked with Charlie, Sam and Tom. I have been inspired by Charlie's enthusiasm and passion for retrofit and observed a pleasant culture in the team. When I saw an opportunity to join, I was keen to take it. Working for a not-for-profit cooperative on a mission to lower energy bills and create healthy homes, as we move towards Net Zero, is something that I take pride in contributing to, and is without any of the cognitive dissonance I have previously felt.

I'VE ALREADY BEEN MADE TO FEEL VERY WELCOME, AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW THOSE I HAVEN'T YET HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING.

Outside of work, my passion is music. I play a few different instruments, through a range of competence (all the way from terrible to not bad), and do the occasional DJ gig at festivals and local events.

Big warm welcome to Phoenix the new community engagement assistant at YOUR HOME BETTER

'Hi, my name is Phoenix and I'm the new community engagement assistant for Your Home Better. I help to run the social channels and engage with the public at events, helping to educate on retrofitting.

I come from a media and production background, and I hope to bring these skills with me to enhance the virtual and digital presence of Your Home Better and retrofitting in general.

I have an interest in keeping the world running at its optimum state for as long as possible and anything we can do as people to help protect it and limit pollution is good in my books. Retrofitting seems an ideal way to both improve homes and aid in carbon neutral status working towards the goal of saving the planet.

I also love the idea that we can help more vulnerable members of the community to feel more comfortable within their own homes especially if they would not otherwise be able to afford to do so without the 'feel the benefit' campaign grants.'



Introducing Retrofitworks Webinars

At RetrofitWorks, our mission is to share our expertise and support others in their journeys. We are excited to announce we will be launching our first ever Webinar on

Thursday 28th November at 11:30-12:30pm. Our first online Webinar will be specifically designed for both new and existing Retrofit coordinators, however open to everyone who has an interest in the retrofit world. This session aims to equip you with essential tools and insights from our expert Retrofit Coordinators, who bring years of industry experience. It is the perfect opportunity to ask your questions to our team and receive the answers you need. We warmly invite everyone to participate and join us. Please email your interest to

membership@retrofitworks.co.uk.

YOUR HOME BETTER

AT MIDDLETON CO-OPERATING



The YHB team attended the Middleton Co-operating event <https://middleton.coop/> which is a people-centred / community led organisation, with YHB's Charlie giving a intro their mission.



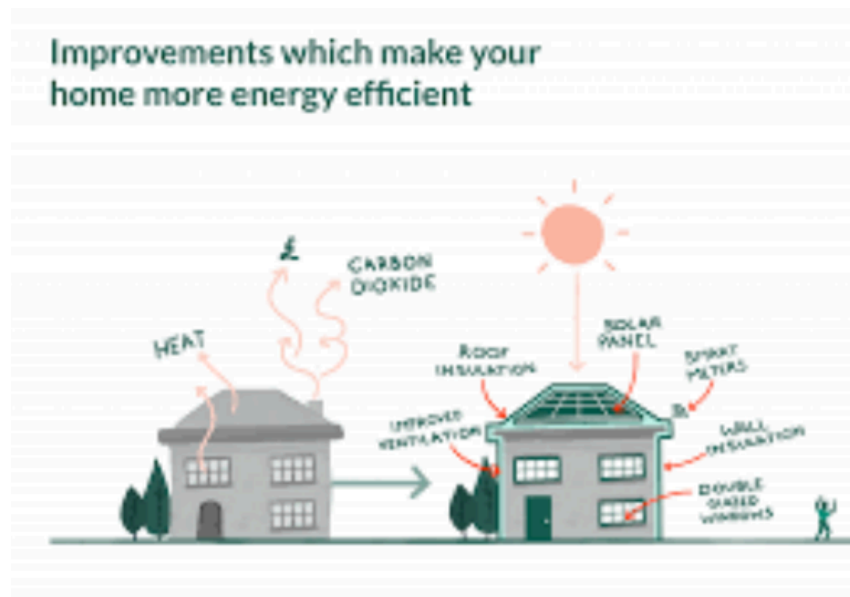
The evening events included a play by the by Garside Kidd Community Centre - "Breadline" – focussing on fuel poverty, whilst on the evening itself, Mark Fraser received an award in recognition of his outstanding community work in Middleton including the Lighthouse Project via satellite from local Middletonian and staunch supporter of Middleton Co-operating, Steve Coogan. I have added picture of Charlie – needs cropping.

"We intend to be Greater Manchester's first co-operative town – taking a new approach to strengthening our local economy and local community, in the Borough that gave birth to the co-operative movement."

NB the Co-operative model was born in Rochdale which is a neighbouring town back in 1844 – the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society.

WHAT RETROFITWORKS DOES BEST

Retrofitworks is dedicated to fostering a greener and more sustainable future. Our mission and vision embody this dedication. We want to remind our community that Retrofitworks is available to help you navigate grant opportunities through expert guidance, tenders, surveys, and interactive workshops.



RetrofitWorks are enthusiastic on the progression of The Warm Home: Local Grant schemes - a UK government initiative aimed at helping vulnerable households manage heating costs during colder months. It provides targeted financial assistance to low-income households, disabled individuals, and the elderly to ensure they can keep their homes warm. RetrofitWorks has a vast amount of experience with such schemes, for example our work in East Sussex where we have successfully administered over £6mn worth of work/assistance alongside our local stakeholders and partners.

In light of the latest government updates, we want our members to know that as a cooperative organisation, we are eager to partner with you and local authorities. Together, we can support bids and drive significant enhancements in our community. We're here to support you!

Update below from the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero.

Over 1 million households are set to be lifted out of fuel poverty, as the government announces plans for the biggest potential boost to home energy standards in history. The Energy Secretary pledged to take action to reverse these failures of the past and stand with tenants, with a commitment to consult by the end of the year on boosting minimum energy efficiency standards for private and social rented homes by 2030.

Currently, private rented homes can be rented out if they meet Energy Performance Certificate E, while social rented homes have no minimum energy efficiency standard at all. The government will now shortly consult on proposals for private and social rented homes to achieve Energy Performance Certificate C or equivalent by 2030.

The government has also announced a new Warm Homes: Local Grant to help low-income homeowners and private tenants with energy performance upgrades and cleaner heating, and confirmed the continuation of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, as well as the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund, which replaces the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, to support social housing providers and tenants.



Construction Leadership Council

DECARBONISATION SCHEME

Through Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero will make capital funding available from 2025/26 to 2027/28. The value of available funding and the profile split across the three financial years will be confirmed in due course. There will be Key changes for Phase 4

ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE RATING C BY 2030.

As part of the first steps of the Warm Homes Plan, The Government Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has officially announced its plans to consult on uplifting the minimum energy efficiency standards of all rented homes to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating C by 2030.

'DAVID' ***OUR MEMBERSHIP MANAGER***

Recently attended the NHIC/CLC Council meeting on September 17th. He found the experience to be incredibly enlightening and beneficial, particularly appreciating the launch of the Doorstep Digest, a complimentary consumer guide aimed at enhancing our homes.

Each of the consumer guides contain independent expert advice and information that is easy to understand and apply. The Consumer Guides are valuable resources for tradespeople and homeowners looking to improve homes confidently. These consumer guides were produced by Working Group 2 in partnership with the Construction Leadership Council.



RETROFITWORKS SITE VISIT WITH SUSTAIN

Retrofitworks heads out to join Adam Morse from Sustain on a site visit, where they have recently installed Solar Panels. "Sustain Homes joined as an installer member of RetrofitWorks in 2022, and was one of our lead installers of solar pv and heating measures on the GLA's Warmer Homes programme. And what's more, Sustain Homes stepped up to help other members' work when called on. That's collaboration in action. The spirit of our Cooperative. Sustain Homes are currently working to deliver an innovative solar PV project with RFW, and Adam has been a key speaker at our recent Retrofit Ready events on Haringey. Sustain Homes is going from strength to strength, with 30 Solar PV and heat pump installs a week. Our Membership Manager was lucky enough to spend a day with Adam and some of his team. "At Sustain Homes we're proud to provide sustainable, high-performance heating and cooling options that help our customers reduce their carbon footprint."

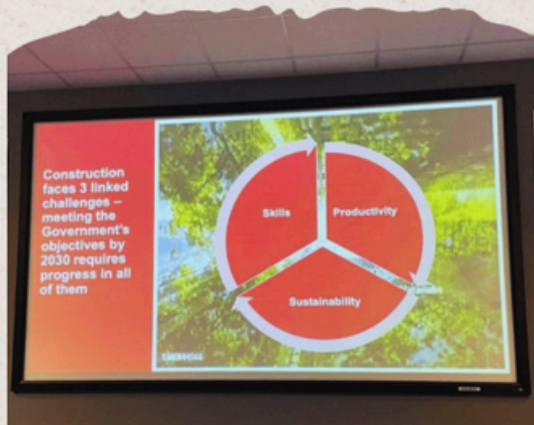
RETROFITWORKS ATTENDED THE GLA SKILLS BOOTCAMPS FOR LONDONERS

We were invited to attend the GLA Skills Bootcamps launch at the Town Hall on 12th September. Howard Dawber, Deputy Mayor for Business Growth, emphasised the need for green jobs and skills. The opportunities mirror the challenges which lie ahead. Across the training sector, RetrofitWorks' mission is to get stuff done – collaborating with advocates, professional services and installers, to create jobs and promote "retrofit" as standard for all domestic home improvements.

REROFITWORKS MET WITH TRUSTMARK



TRUSTMARK EVENT



THE SWINDON EVENT

RFW is a regular guest at TrustMark's Annual Scheme Provider Forum, a platform for all TrustMark Scheme Providers to come together to discuss how we can work together to support the industry to grow, better protect consumers and break down barriers to help support the Repair, Maintenance and Improvement sector to thrive, including retrofit.

Small Business Commissioner Liz Barclay spoke of the importance of collaboration across the industry and helping micro businesses and SME's grow. This was a main theme of the day, reinforced by Trustmark's CEO Simon Ayres (MBE).

For RFW it was a great opportunity to meet old friends, like Simon and Nicola, the TrustMark Membership Director including Avinash Rajan, TrustMark's Proposition Director, who was also joined Energy Saving Trust's 'Retrofit Now!' webinar as part of Retrofit Action Weeks.

The recurring themes again

- What help do organisations need to accelerate home energy upgrades
- What's preventing consumers from implementing home energy efficiency measures?

So contact RetrofitWorks if you want to become TrustMark accredited, and also join our RetrofitWorks cooperative to put principles into practice.

RETROFIT READY SOLAR PV EVENT HARINGEY

As part of our 'Retrofit Ready' Growth, Impact and Skills initiative with Haringey Council we recently gathered industry leaders, innovators, and changemakers on September 26th to delve into the transformative potential of the solar PV and domestic retrofit market for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). Here's a snapshot of the insights and discussions from the event:



Get the Skills. Get Informed. Get Ready!
👁️ Can't wait till our next Retrofit Ready post? Stay in the loop here:

<https://lnkd.in/dKmWeyw9> Capital City College Innovate UK National Retrofit Hub

- **Market Opportunity:** Jared Joseph-White from RetrofitWorks outlined the substantial £275 million market potential for solar PV in Haringey, emphasising the context of latent installs in London, with only 1.43% of households adopting the technology. Around 40,000 households in Haringey are primed for solar technology, presenting a substantial commercial opportunity for SME growth and green skills development through the delivery of retrofit installs.
- **SME Installer Success :** Adam Morse from Sustain | Certified B Corp™ captivated the audience with his success stories in solar and heat pump installations. He highlighted the burgeoning demand constrained by a shortage of skills in the supply chain and the significant commercial exploitation opportunities for proactive SMEs. He showcased the vibrant market potential and underscored the importance of building consumer confidence and delivering a high-quality service.
- **Green Skills:** **Mishary Alfahad** from CONEL's Green Skills Academy detailed their successful upskilling and job placement efforts, showcasing how targeted educational initiatives can bridge the green skills gap by providing accessible retrofit learning pathways and courses for Londoners.
- **Collaboration & Scaling Impact:** David O'Neil from **RetrofitWorks** underscored the importance of community involvement and collective efforts in scaling retrofit solutions, fostering a robust network for sustainable industry growth. David provided a call to action to the 'curious' to get off the sidelines and get stuck into a rewarding industry.
- **Accelerating Net Zero Careers:** **Richard Tyrie** from **GoodPeople** / Net Zero Career Accelerator discussed the transformative impact of mentorship and hands-on practical training in the retrofit sector, emphasising the importance of tailored programs and real-world application to equip professionals with the skills required to excel in their careers and promote higher standards of practice and innovation in the industry. The practical insights and takeaways from the event demonstrate that innovation, education, and collaboration are our greatest assets in expediting a just transition to decarbonise our domestic built environment. A big thank you to our line-up of speakers and dedicated attendees for their contributions and spirited participation.

Newsletter

retrofit action week

RETROFIT ACTION WEEK

The Your Home Better team had a great time at the Home Upgrade Show at the Victoria Baths this year. We got to chat with exhibitors, homeowners and community groups both local and national about ways of working collaboratively together and the unique challenges of retrofit. We also ran into a couple of happy YHB customers who are passionate about retrofit and were interested in learning more about the industry as a whole.



Trick or Treat, Let Your Pumpkin Compete!

Calling all our members, ghouls, and goblins! Get ready to unleash some Halloween fun! We are super excited to invite everyone yes, even the tiny trick-or-treaters to join our Best Carved or Dressed Pumpkin showdown! Snap a pic of your spooktacular pumpkins and send them to membership@retrofitworks.co.uk before 31st October, where we will strut your creations on our social media! The pumpkin champion will be revealed on our socials on Wednesday 6th November, and will receive an exciting prize! So, let your creativity run wild, and remember there's no need to scoop out the insides those can be savoured as a tasty soup. Get ready to show off your pumpkin prowess!